



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6

1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200

DALLAS, TEXAS 75202-2733

October 5, 1990

Dear Interested Citizen:

As you know, the EPA recently selected a remedy for the Arkwood Superfund site near Omaha, Arkansas. Based on community concerns over incineration, EPA modified the remedy presented at the public meeting to require washing of the soils prior to incineration. By washing the soils, it is estimated that only about one third of the volume of material originally proposed to be incinerated will require incineration. As a result, the length of time for the incineration will also be dramatically reduced.

Sieve and wash alone was not selected because it could not destroy the contaminants of greatest concern at the site. However, sieve and wash will concentrate these contaminants and incineration will permanently destroy them. EPA feels very strongly that it is necessary to destroy these contaminants to provide long-term protection for your community.

A large majority of the residents living near the site candidly opposed the incineration remedy. They expressed a fear that toxic emissions would accumulate in the valley during certain weather conditions and dissipate over the school yard north of the site. Let me assure you that EPA is concerned about the health and well being of ALL residents living near the site, especially school children. We are committed to protecting your health and the environment in northern Arkansas and southern Missouri.

The incinerator's performance will be continuously monitored to ensure the safe destruction of the contaminated soils. The incinerator will be equipped with a number of safety features, including an automatic feed shutoff. During the incineration, air monitoring equipment will be used near the school to detect the slightest change in air quality. Also, if the residents and parents would feel more confident, a full-time independent inspector or engineer could be assigned to Omaha for the duration of the incineration.

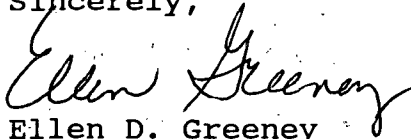
Let me assure you again that EPA is fully committed to protecting your health and the health of your children throughout this project. We value your comments and fully understand your concerns and fears. We believe that permanent destruction of this material is the best remedy. We will be in touch with you several times

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during the design process to request your assistance and to discuss your concerns. Together, we can safely eliminate this environmental problem and return a valuable resource back to the citizens of Omaha.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ellen D. Greeney". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Ellen D. Greeney
Community Relations Coordinator